

December 6, 2007

Contact: Robin Winchell (202) 225-4031

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon commented today on his appointment to the U.S. House Democratic Steering Committee, which is responsible for developing policy for the Democratic Caucus and makes recommendations on appointments and committee assignments for Members. Melancon was chosen for the committee by members of the Democratic Leadership to serve in the 110th Congress on the committee. The Steering Committee includes members of the elected leadership, the Chief Deputy Whips, and Chairs of the five exclusive committees and the Budget Committee.

"I am honored my colleagues have chosen me to serve on the Steering Committee and look forward to being a voice for Louisiana in the new Congress's leadership," said Melancon.

"In this new position, I will work to make sure hurricane recovery, coastal restoration, and protecting our coastal communities from future storms are top priorities for Congress and the leadership."

Melancon continued, **"Speaker-designate Pelosi, Majority Leader-designate Hoyer, and Whip-designate Clyburn have all traveled to the Gulf Coast and seen with their own eyes the devastation. This August, on the anniversary of Katrina's landfall, they sat down with Louisianians from all different walks of life - fishermen, teachers, doctors, business owners, farmers, engineers and others - and heard with their own ears what needs to be done by Congress for the Gulf Coast to fully recover. The new House leadership understands what has happened to us and are committed to Louisiana's future. As a member of the Steering Committee, I will make sure they don't forget us, or their commitment to the people of Louisiana."**

#

Contact: Robin Winchell (202) 225-4031